

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 SAB-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 EB-11

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R 181556Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5713

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

YMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIP*LI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS PFOR XF

SUBJ: HABASH REJECTS PLO PARTICIPATION IN PEACE TALKS, WHILE WEST

BANK NOTABLES URGE PLO ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA CONF

SUMMARY: IN SPEECH AT FEDAYEEN RALLY HERE DEC 17, PFLP CHIEF
GEORGE HABASH DECLARED HIS ORGANIZATION'S FIRM REJECTION OF FORTH-
COMING GENEVA PEACE TALKS, CRITICIZED PLO LEADERSHIP FOR NOT
TAKING SIMILAR STAND, AND DENOUNCED EGYPT AND "REACTIONARY"
ARAB GOVTS FOR CONTINUING THREAT WITH USG. AT SAME TIME, WE HAVE
CONFIRMED AUTHENTICITY OF REPORT PUBLISHED HERE DEC 17 THAT
"NATIONAL FRONT" COMPOSED OF WEST BANK POLITICAL GROUPS HAS
SENT LETTER TO PLO URGING ITS LEADERSHIP ATTEND GENEVA CONF. END
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SUMMARY.

1. AS SUMMARIZED IN FBIS M172359, PFLP CHIEF GEORGE HABASH DELIVERED ROUSING SPEECH AT BEIRUT'S ARAB UNIVERSITY DEC 17 IN WHICH HE DECLARED TOTAL OPPOSITION*TO PLO PARTICIPATION IN "DIS-GRACEFUL" GENEVA PEACE CONF AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SC RES 242. HE REMINDED PLO LEADERSHIP THAT PALESTINIAN PEOPLE UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO "ZIONIST-IMPERIALIST PRESENCE IN OUR HOMELAND" SINCE 1917 BALFOUR DECLARATION AND THAT THEY CONTINUE MAINTAIN THIS ADAMANT STAND "IN FACE OF ALL DEFEATIST ARGUMENTS". HE RIDICULED IDEA OF CREATION OF "RUMP" PALESTINE STATE COULD SERVE AS TACTICAL BASE FROM WHICH TO CARRY ON STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL, AND WARNED PLO NOT TO JEOPARDIZE FEDAYEEN UNITY BY CONTINUING AVOID ISSUE ON GROUNDS PLO HAS NOT BEEN INVITED TO GENEVA. "THERE IS CLEAR-CUT QUESTION BEFORE US", HE SAID, "WILL PLO ATTEND PEACE CONF OR NOT? IT IS IN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT'S INTEREST TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION CLEARLY AND FIRMLY".

2. HABASH LEFT NO DOUBT THAT ANY GAINS ACHIEVED BY PLO AT GENEVA WOULD BE HEAVILY OUTWEIGHED BY "SURRENDER" CONCESSIONS MADE TO ISRAEL, WHICH "WOULD BECOME WINDOW THROUGH WHICH IMPERIALIST INTERESTS WOULD CONTINUE PENETRATE ARAB WORLD". HE DENOUNCED EGYPT'S "SHAMEFUL" BEHAVIOR IN RESUMING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH US AND SIGNING SUMED CONTRACT, ADDING: "OUR NUMBER ONE ENEMY IS AMERICAN IMPERIALISM. WE SHALL NOT ALLOW ARAB REACTIONARIES TO BECOME PATRIOTS BY FIGHTING ISRAEL WHILE THROWING THEMSELVES INTO AMERICA'S ARMS". AFTER CALLING FOR TOTAL NATIONALIZATION OF ARAB OIL RESOURCES AND WITHDRAWAL OF FINANCIAL DEPOSITS FROM "IMPERIALIST" BANKS, HABASH REITERATED HIS ATTACHMENT TO "MOBIL-IZING PALESTINIAN AND ARAB MASSES" FOR "LONG POPULAR LIBERATION WAR" A LA VIETNAM AS ONLY MEANS OF "EXPPELLING ZIONIST PREUENCE".

3. AT SAME TIME, WE NOTE LETTER TO PLO PUBLISHED DEC 17 IN INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR, IN WHICH SO-CALLED "NATIONAL PALESTINIAN FRONT IN THE OCCUPIED LAND" APPEALED TO PLO LEADERSHIP TO TAKE PART IN PEACE TALKS AT GENEVA. FRONT, WHICH CLAIMED TO INCLUDE "ALL POLITICAL GROUPS OPERATING IN WEST BANK AND GAZA", SAID THAT FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD LEAVE FIELD AT GENEVA TO KING HUSSEIN AND DEPRIVE PLO OF ITS "LEGAL CLAIM" TO REPRESENT PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. AUTHORS ALSO STATED THAT "WITH OUR BEST EVALUATION OF ARAB MILITARY AND NON-MILITARY CAPABILITIES, IT IS CLEAR THAT REALIZATION OF OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FULL STRATEGIC GOALS IS IMPOSSIBLE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES". THIS SITUATION MIGHT LAST FOR SOME TIME, LETTER CONTINUED, "BUT IT SHOULD NOT LEAD US TO DESPAIR...(SINCE) IT POSSIBLE THAT PROPER AREA AND INTERNATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WILL ARISE WHEREBY WE COULD DETERMINE OUR FUTURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS".

4. COMMENT: WE INFORMED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS THAT ABOVE LETTER IS AUTHENTIC AND THAT EVEN PFLP LEADERS*IP IS HAVING*TROUVLE WITH ITS FO*LOWERS INSIDE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WHO

SUPPORT

PLO PARTICIPATION*AT GENEVA IN HOPE OF ENSURING SETTLEMENT
BENEFITS (E.G., INDEPENDENT WEST BANK STATE) FOR PALESTINIAN
NATIONALISM. HABASH SPEECH, ON OTHER HAND, INDICATES THAT HE AND
OTHER FEDAYEEN DIE-HARDS LOCKED IN BATTLE TO GET PLO TO COMMIT
ITSELF IN PRECISELY OPPOSITE DIRECTION. WE EXPECT 'ARAFAT AND CO.
WILL CONTINUE BEING CAREFUL PICK THEIR WAY THROUGH THIS MINEFIELD,
WITH THEIR DESIRE TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH SETTLEMENT PROCESS
TEMPERED BY REALIZATION OF DANGERS WHICH PREMATURE COMMITMENT
COULD POSE FOR THEIR POLITICAL POSITIONS (ESPECIALLY WITH SO LITTLE
APPARENT TANGIBLE BENEFIT FOR PALESTINIANS) OR EVEN THEIR LIVES.
BUFFUM

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